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Emerick, Polly

From: Salmon, Sandra J
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2002 3:31 PM
To: Caracas, All Employees
Subject: FW: Department's press statement on Venezuela (statement by Reeke r, d ep. spokesman)

Importance: High

Aqui el pronunciamiento oficial del Departamento de Estado sobre los eventos recientes en Venezuela:

-----Original Message-----

From: Law, John
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2002 2:42 PM
To: Salmon, Sandra J (Caracas)
Subject: RE: Department's press statement on Venezuela (statement by Reeke r, d ep. spokesman)
Importance: High

Sandy: I don't have a mail-to-all employees option, but here it is. I'll send a separate email right now with the Ambassador's statement, which has the advantage of being in Spanish.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release
April 12, 2002
2002/315

STATEMENT BY PHILIP T. REEKER, DEPUTY SPOKESMAN

Venezuela: Change of Government

In recent days, we expressed our hopes that all parties in Venezuela, but especially the Chavez administration, would act with restraint and show full respect for the peaceful expression of political opinion. We are saddened at the loss of life. We wish to express our solidarity with the Venezuelan people and look forward to working with all democratic forces in Venezuela to ensure the full exercise of democratic rights. The Venezuelan military commendably refused to fire on peaceful demonstrators, and the media valiantly kept the Venezuelan public informed.

Yesterday's events in Venezuela resulted in a transitional government until new elections can be held. Though details are still unclear, undemocratic actions committed or encouraged by the Chavez administration provoked yesterday's crisis in Venezuela. According to the best information available, at this time: Yesterday, hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans gathered peacefully to seek redress of their grievances. The Chavez Government attempted to suppress peaceful demonstrations. Chavez supporters, on orders, fired on unarmed, peaceful protestors, resulting in more than 100 wounded or killed. Venezuelan military and police refused orders to fire on peaceful demonstrators and refused to support the government's role in such human rights violations. The government prevented five independent television stations from reporting on events. The results of these provocations are: Chavez resigned the presidency. Before resigning, he dismissed the Vice President and the Cabinet. A transition civilian government has promised early elections.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 23 MAY 2006 200304421

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We have every expectation that this situation of democracy will be resolved peacefully and democratically by the Venezuelan people in accord with the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The essential elements of democracy, which have been weakened in recent months, must be restored fully. We will be consulting with our hemispheric partners, within the framework of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, to assist Venezuela.

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